

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

White House Summit on Environmental Education: April 16th, 2012

Notes from Breakout Session: Yellow Group

The responses listed below are transcribed directly from the sticky notes and flip charts used during the summit breakout sessions.

What one bold new step would you recommend for all organizations to ensure that environmental education fosters lifelong environmental stewardship from K-Grey?

The responses from the yellow group included:

- People develop personal responsibilities to environmental stewardship
 - Day to day integration
 - Collaboration in ALL Disciplines – interdisciplinary – arts, music, etc...
 - Coordinated National communication strategy
 - Connect people to their environment
 - “Citizen Naturalists” – foster and build awareness and education across the board, environmental studies throughout people’s lives through use of formal structures and non-formal
 - Need more mainstream Environmental Education – less divide between eco folks and more integration into everyone is mindful about the environment
 - Foster attachment to Place – Place-based education
 - Place-based, interdisciplinary, inquiry based education that engages you and all ages.
 - Recognize the power of non-formal learning
 - Non-formal education infused with environmental stewardship and citizen responsibility
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- Inquiry based strategies – what do they want & need to learn/know?
 - Ask young people what they would/could engage in. Include them in the conversations!
 - Organizations engage local youth – help to understand and connect opportunities
 - Ask learners & students how environmental knowledge connects to *their* values
 - Frame environmental messages and partnerships with health concerns to make connections
 - “How does impact me as a young person?”
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- Have relevant Federal Agencies (such as EPA, Interior, Ag, etc..) support Environmental education by committing % of federal funds to it
 - Commit to national EE goal

- Environmental Amendment
 - Integrate Environmental Education in to Federal Standards
 - Change State Standards to include Environmental Education
 - Need more time and funds devoted to/backing EE policies and advocacy
 - By changing state standards, commitment of Federal Agencies & sufficient Resources and Budget
 - Work more with urban – look at what assets are there- who can we partner and work with?
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Final Statement Summary:

Foster Place-based experiential learning as an integrated context for learning (stewardship is part of that process). Engage with youth.

What We Need: To work both sides of the issue. Bottom-Up AND Top-Down.

How do we accomplish this?

1. Top Down: we need to plan and develop structure and approaches in formal learning and legislation
 2. Bottom Up: Involve youth in conversations about what they would engage in, support non-formal learning and every day integrated environmental education and community involvement and action
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